

# From the Editors

It is our pleasure to present you with the eighth edition of *Ezra's Archives*. Over the past six months, our editors have read countless pages and analyzed numerous arguments in order to compile this journal of undergraduate historical research. We invited submissions from nearly eighty universities across the country, hoping to provide the opportunity for diverse historical perspectives to be read, understood, shared, and debated. Our editorial staff received close to fifty submissions from institutions such as Georgetown University, Yale University, Washington University in St. Louis, and Emory University. Five papers emerged as exceptional for their novel arguments and insights. We are excited to present those papers in this edition.

We begin with a paper by Northwestern senior Fiona Maxwell that discusses theatricality and show window displays between 1897 and 1917 in the United States. Focusing on the art of display through a theatrical lens, Maxwell provides a compelling argument that show windows were not merely deceptive means of manipulating consumers. The paper argues that the theatrical lens balances profitable merchant intentions with the creativity of window trimmers and ensuing public delight.

The second paper, written by Northwestern senior Henry E. Chen, is about blood and militarism in Colonial Hawai'i. Through Hawaiian newspapers, photographs, and ephemera, the author examines representations of "blood" as it relates to race, politics, masculinity, and militarism in early twentieth century Hawai'i. The paper's thesis asserts that blood is critical to understanding the sustained project of American militarism in Colonial Hawai'i.

Written by Johns Hopkins University junior Michael Anfang, the third paper challenges the existing understanding of peripheral medieval religion, suggesting a new "local-foreign split" model to argue peripheral Christians might have considered their practical religiosity in terms of an interpretive circle of their specific local community. The paper thus argues that practices viewed as unorthodox by outsiders were actually viewed as orthodox by local priests, practitioners, and neighbors.

The fourth paper, written by University of Chicago third-year Isaac Johnston, discusses the rise of baseball's popularity and its portrayal within the media. Including numerous primary source illustrations, he argues that the depiction of baseball players in consumer culture

coincided with a general cultural shift that stressed the importance of physical fitness and hypermasculinity.

We conclude with a paper written by Stanford University junior G. Aron Ramirez discussing the transformation of his hometown into the “Mexican Beverly Hills,” as it was called by the *Los Angeles Times*. The author coins the term “residential pruning” to describe economically discriminatory policies that guaranteed that incoming residents of Downey, California in the late 1980s would be members of the high middle-class. Ramirez argues that residential pruning is a prejudicial use of legal means that are geared toward maintaining a specific social environment.

Continuing the legacy of *Ezra's Archives* since the first publication in Spring 2011, we are grateful to have the opportunity to provide a platform for exceptional undergraduate historical research. We hope you enjoy the papers as much as we did, and are proud to present you with the eighth edition of *Ezra's Archives*.

Sincerely,  
Becky Cardinali and Marie Ceske  
Editors in Chief